

April 18, 1977

LB 30

alternate system to help to supplement what we think of as a conventional, and probably, a very high fuel user.

SENATOR NEWELL: Thank you, Senator Koch. Would the President yield to a question?

PRESIDENT: I beg your pardon.

SENATOR NEWELL: Would you yield to a question?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

SENATOR NEWELL: As I understand that you are actively involved or engaged in a commission or a committee that is reviewing energy policy and so forth for the state, has the state looked at this sort of tax proposal as a way of, exemption from sales tax, as a way to encourage the use of and development of solar energy?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

SENATOR NEWELL: Is it considered by the committee to be a viable...

PRESIDENT: Yes. I think that everybody I have ever talked to has agreed that this is part of the carrot approach to the stick and the carrot to foster solar energy. Whether or not this particular amendment is, I don't think the Chair should comment on that, but in response to your question, every conference I have ever gone to does recommend something along this line.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I am generally opposed to...I am generally opposed to proposals like this which are aimed at providing an incentive through our tax system. I think that our tax system, unless that incentive to do something, it is generally, in my opinion, a poor way to try to collect taxes and to exempt people when you are trying to provide incentives. If you are trying to make a tax system fair, we could argue this on the fact of the regressive nature of that. It might be a different point. I might be, however, very favorable to this and I might be able to support this proposal had it been kicked around a little more and given some study. I think that one of my major concerns is that we may be doing something here piecemeal that ought to be done in an overall coordinated energy policy and for that reason I think that I am going to have to ask the body to oppose this amendment, not because it is not a good amendment or it may not be a beneficial amendment, but it hasn't been kicked around enough to really know whether this will fit in the overall package. If it should pass, I won't feel too bad about it. The President said this is the type of thing that is being done and being proposed and I guess on that basis it is not totally new but it is new to me so I am going to vote red and I don't know what the rest of you are going to do.

PRESIDENT: Do you have a motion up there, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have none. The Speaker would like recognition.

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